



[Home](#) › [Statistics](#) › [Labour](#) › [Jobs](#) › [Job Vacancies, Australia](#) › August 2021



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Job Vacancies, Australia

Results of the quarterly Job Vacancies Survey containing estimates of job vacancies classified by industry, sector and state/territory.

Reference period August 2021

Released 30/09/2021

On this page

[Key statistics](#)

[Survey impacts](#)

[Job vacancies over time](#)

[Businesses reporting vacancies](#)

[States and territories](#)

[Private sector](#)

[Public sector](#)

[Industry](#)

[Downloads](#)

[Methodology](#)

[Media releases](#)

Key statistics

The seasonally adjusted estimates for the August 2021 quarter are as follows:

- Total job vacancies were 333,700, a decrease of 9.8% from May 2021.
- Private sector vacancies were 302,400, a decrease of 10.9% from May 2021.
- Public sector vacancies were 31,300, an increase of 2.3% from May 2021.

	Aug-21	Quarterly change	Annual change
	'000	%	%
Private sector	302.4	-10.9	64.3
Public sector	31.3	2.3	41.1
Private and public sectors	333.7	-9.8	61.8

Survey impacts

Continuing the use of forward factors for seasonal adjustment

In the May 2020 Job vacancies release, the ABS advised that the method used to produce seasonally adjusted estimates would be changed from the 'concurrent' method to the 'forward factors' method, during the COVID-19 period. The forward factors approach is better suited to managing large movements at the end point of series and ensures that large movements do not have a disproportionate influence on the seasonal factors.

Given the large movements in the labour market during the COVID-19 period and the continuing use of a forward factors approach to seasonal adjustment, the ABS undertook an extensive annual review of its seasonally adjusted job vacancies series, prior to the release of the job vacancies May 2021 estimates. Static forward factors for the next 12 months were calculated through this annual process and were used from the May 2021 release.

For further information on seasonal adjustment during a period of uncertainty please see: [Seasonal adjustment throughout periods of significant disruption and uncertainty](https://www.abs.gov.au/statistics/research/seasonal-adjustment-throughout-periods-significant-disruption-and-uncertainty) | Australian Bureau of Statistics (abs.gov.au). (<https://www.abs.gov.au/statistics/research/seasonal-adjustment-throughout-periods-significant-disruption-and-uncertainty>)

Suspension of trend estimates

Consistent with other ABS labour statistics, the JVS trend series have been suspended until more certainty emerges in the underlying trend in the estimates over the COVID-19 period. The reinstatement of JVS trend estimates will be reviewed for the November 2021 cycle. Spreadsheets containing seasonally adjusted and original data will continue to be published in the standard format, but trend series will not be published during the COVID-19 period.

Survey responses remain high in August

Responses for the Job Vacancies Survey August 2021 quarter remained high. The ABS would like to thank the Australian business community for their continued support in responding

to our surveys during such a challenging time, given how critically important this information is.

Other measures of labour demand

In addition to Job Vacancies, there are a number of non-ABS indicators that measure labour demand using alternative concepts, sources and methods. These are also widely used as leading indicators of employment. Prominent examples include the ANZ Job Advertisement Series, the SEEK Employment Report, and the National Skills Commission's Internet Vacancy Index.

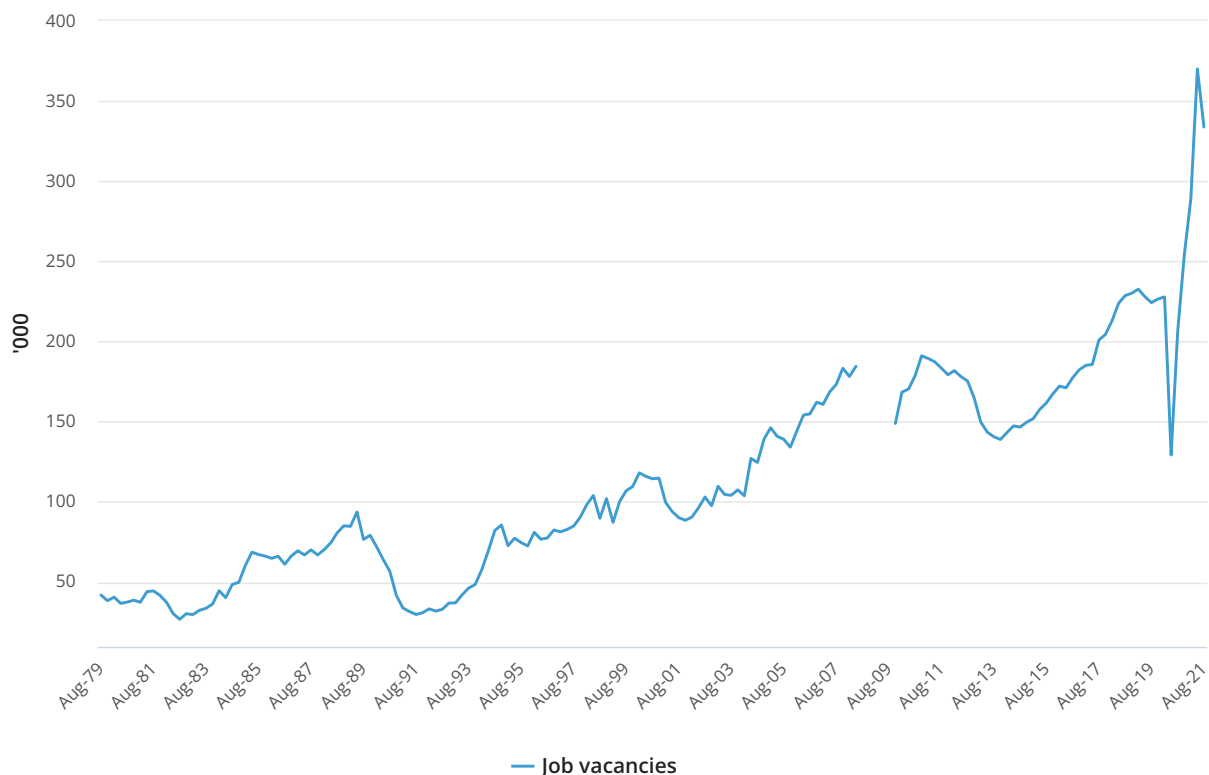
Measures of job vacancies and job advertisements will differ for a number of reasons. One of the key differences is that job vacancies includes jobs for which job advertisements are undertaken but also include jobs where other recruitment approaches are exclusively used, such as word of mouth or social media. According to the National Skills Commission's Survey of Employer's Recruitment Experience, 22 per cent of jobs are not advertised (i.e. recruitment is done through word of mouth alone or by considering people who approach the business). For further details on recruitment practices, please see the [Employers' Insights on the Australian Labour Market 2020 Data Report \(https://lmip.gov.au/default.aspx?LMIP/GainInsights/EmployersRecruitmentInsights\)](https://lmip.gov.au/default.aspx?LMIP/GainInsights/EmployersRecruitmentInsights).

Furthermore, job vacancies count every position advertised within a single notice, while some job advertisements may be used to fill multiple positions.

Job vacancies over time

Job vacancies decreased by 9.8% (36,200 vacancies) in the three months to August 2021 (seasonally adjusted). The August vacancies reflect a point in time where many businesses were subject to restrictions, with a number of states in lockdown.

However, the level of job vacancies remained higher than they were six months ago, and were still 46.5% higher than in February 2020, prior to the start of the pandemic. The ongoing high level of vacancies reflects the pace of recovery in labour demand from the fall in May 2020, as well as a number of industries indicating labour shortages, particularly for lower paid jobs.

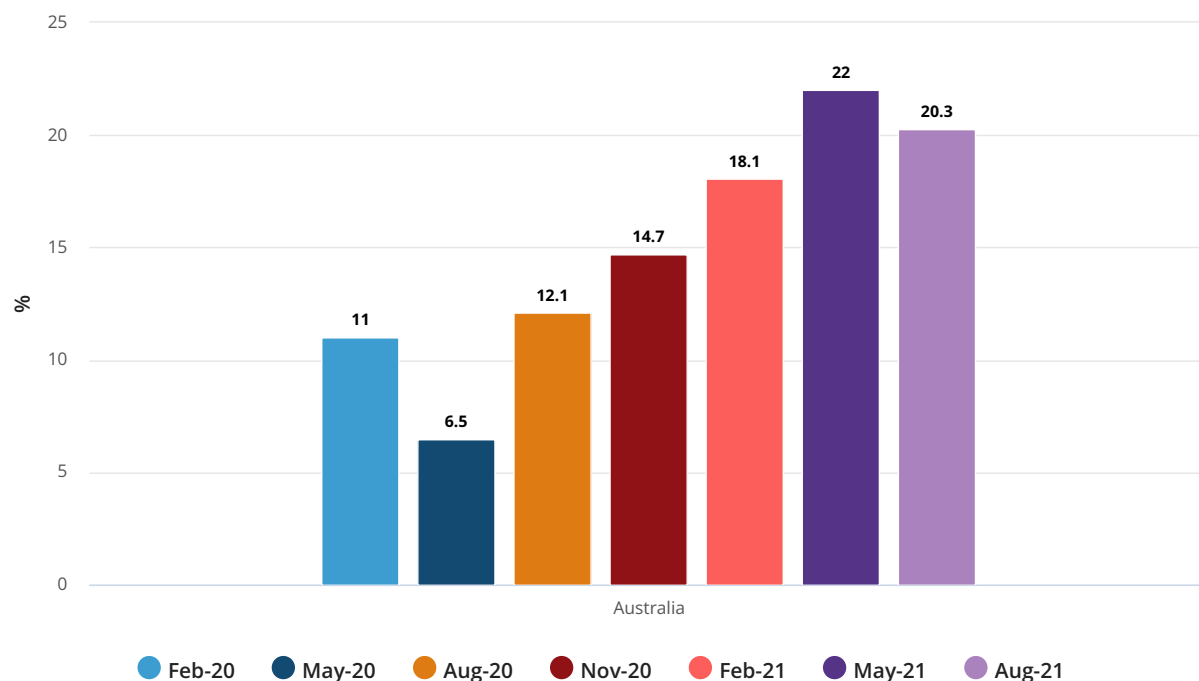


The Job Vacancy Survey was suspended between August 2008 to August 2009 (inclusive).

Businesses reporting vacancies

The number of businesses reporting at least one vacancy also shows the extent of the acute reduction in labour demand in May 2020, as well as the subsequent change. In May 2020, a much lower proportion of businesses reported at least one vacancy (6.5%). By May 2021, this had increased to 22.0% of businesses. For August 2021, this number declined to 20.3% but remained higher than February 2020 (11.0%), which was prior to the impact of COVID-19.

Proportion of businesses reporting vacancies, Australia



Proportion of businesses reporting vacancies, states and territories

	Feb-20	May-20	Aug-20	Nov-20	Feb-21	May-21	Aug-21
New South Wales	12.1%	5.8%	11.6%	15.1%	19.6%	22.9%	19.4%
Victoria	11.2%	6.0%	11.5%	15.5%	18.0%	22.0%	18.8%
Queensland	10.4%	10.5%	13.7%	12.9%	17.4%	22.6%	26.9%
South Australia	8.1%	2.9%	8.8%	9.1%	15.7%	15.6%	13.1%
Western Australia	10.2%	5.5%	15.6%	16.7%	16.3%	21.7%	21.5%
Tasmania	8.3%	4.5%	10.7%	14.2%	17.8%	21.8%	15.1%
Northern Territory	9.2%	6.7%	20.7%	21.0%	21.8%	26.5%	20.8%
Australian Capital Territory	9.4%	3.5%	4.7%	17.3%	12.1%	13.8%	9.4%
Australia	11.0%	6.5%	12.1%	14.7%	18.1%	22.0%	20.3%

Proportion of businesses reporting vacancies, industry

	Feb-20	May-20	Aug-20	Nov-20	Feb-21	May-21	Aug-21
Mining	20.9%	8.3%	16.1%	16.3%	21.1%	11.0%	18.1%
Manufacturing	8.0%	4.4%	14.0%	14.6%	15.3%	15.1%	22.9%
Electricity, gas, water and waste services	10.2%	11.8%	21.9%	18.5%	13.9%	12.8%	9.9%
Construction	13.6%	4.6%	12.0%	13.0%	22.8%	26.9%	23.3%
Wholesale trade	14.6%	14.1%	14.0%	17.8%	15.2%	23.6%	22.3%
Retail trade	13.3%	9.7%	9.9%	17.8%	16.4%	21.6%	21.4%
Accommodation and food services	14.5%	2.3%	13.9%	16.9%	30.5%	30.5%	18.3%
Transport, postal and warehousing	5.3%	4.1%	10.7%	4.3%	20.2%	22.0%	15.7%
Information media and telecommunications	14.0%	7.0%	5.2%	14.0%	18.3%	20.0%	15.9%
Financial and insurance services	4.5%	5.0%	6.6%	15.7%	16.9%	20.5%	10.3%
Rental, hiring and real estate services	6.9%	4.1%	11.8%	12.8%	11.1%	16.9%	19.3%
Professional, scientific and technical services	9.4%	9.2%	14.8%	14.2%	14.5%	16.4%	15.4%
Administrative and support services	16.5%	7.8%	16.2%	18.9%	17.1%	23.6%	29.8%
Public administration and safety	31.3%	22.6%	27.9%	35.4%	30.0%	42.2%	29.8%
Education and training	7.5%	4.0%	10.8%	5.2%	8.6%	11.5%	9.7%
Health care and social assistance	8.2%	6.5%	8.9%	13.6%	13.4%	23.3%	21.2%
Arts and recreation services	3.4%	0.5%	2.1%	21.0%	3.1%	14.0%	9.3%
Other services	10.6%	5.6%	11.1%	16.7%	21.1%	22.8%	28.1%
All industries	11.0%	6.5%	12.1%	14.7%	18.1%	22.0%	20.3%

Reasons for vacancies

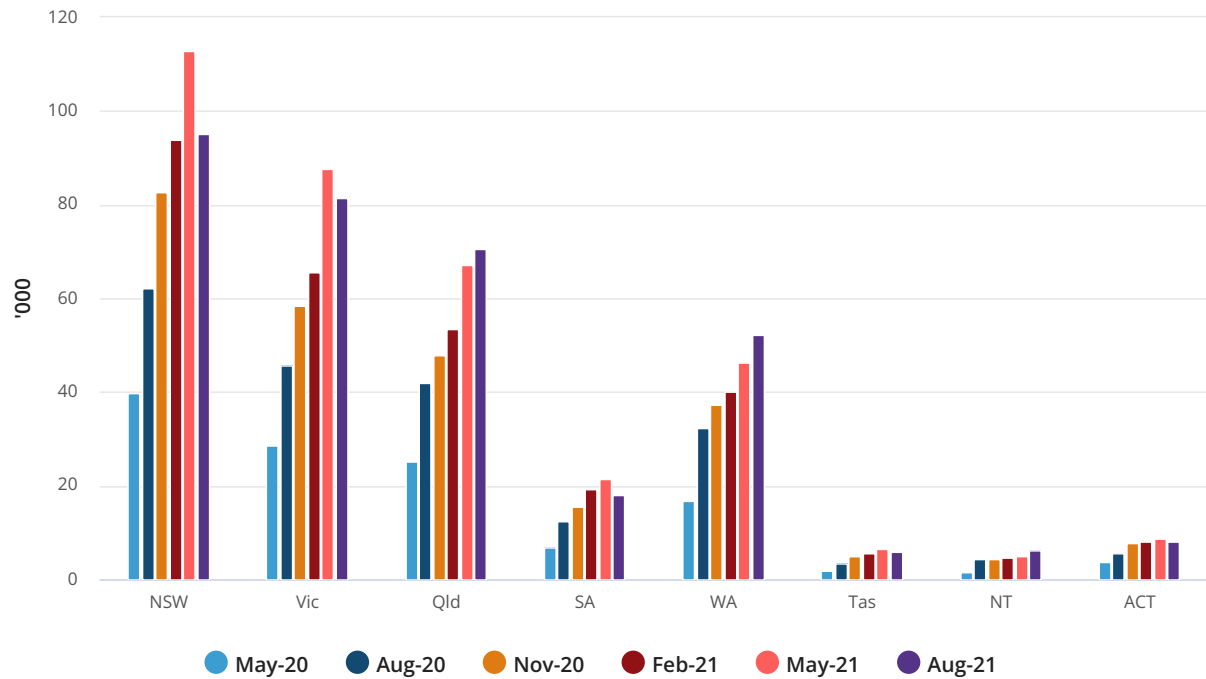
	Feb-20	May-20	Aug-20	Nov-20	Feb-21	May-21	Aug-21
Replacement/resignations	78.6%	72.9%	75.3%	75.1%	76.2%	76.0%	75.1%
Increased workload	35.9%	32.0%	36.7%	41.3%	44.5%	45.4%	42.3%
Expansion of business	25.4%	15.7%	19.9%	21.2%	25.4%	26.8%	25.3%
Restructure	16.6%	14.1%	14.6%	16.8%	14.0%	14.3%	15.7%
Relocation	0.8%	0.7%	1.0%	0.6%	0.8%	0.7%	0.8%
Seasonal	10.7%	9.0%	11.7%	16.4%	10.1%	10.0%	11.4%
Special event	1.5%	2.7%	3.0%	2.3%	2.1%	2.1%	2.5%
Takeover	1.1%	0.7%	1.5%	1.0%	1.0%	1.4%	1.4%
Other	6.5%	11.6%	11.9%	10.9%	8.8%	10.3%	11.8%

Businesses may have multiple reasons for reporting job vacancies

Proportions are of businesses that reported at least one vacancy

States and territories

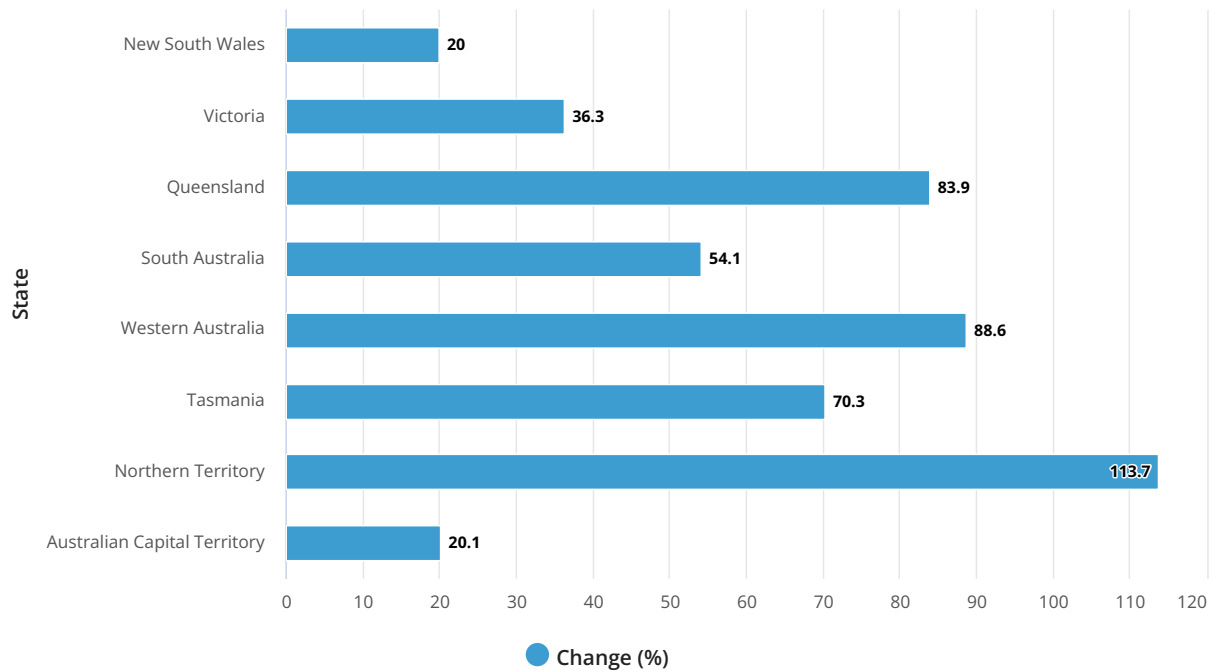
Job vacancies, states and territories, original



Change in job vacancies, states and territories

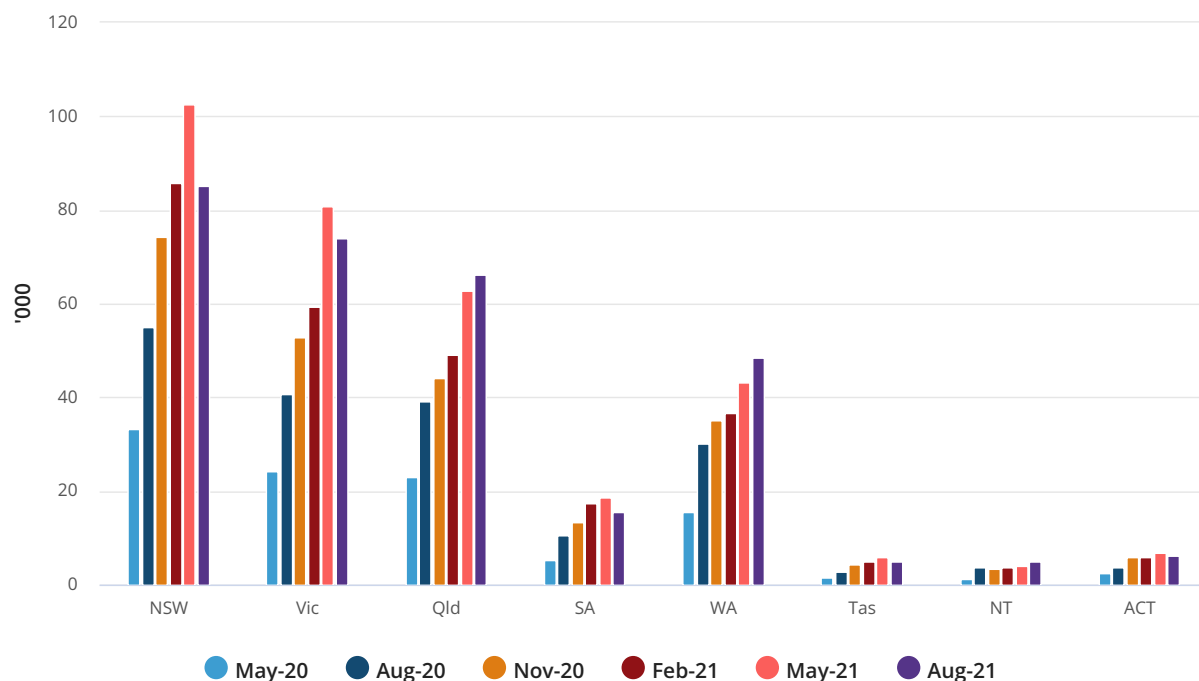
	NSW	Vic	Qld	SA	WA	Tas	NT	ACT	Australia	Australia (Seasonally Adjusted)
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
Change from previous quarter										
May-20	-49.9	-51.9	-34.3	-41.6	-39.1	-45.7	-39.7	-46.2	-45.8	-43.3
Aug-20	56.4	59.5	67.0	83.2	91.4	84.7	146.3	57.2	67.1	59.6
Nov-20	32.9	27.6	13.7	24.6	16.2	50.4	0.1	40.4	24.6	23.0
Feb-21	13.6	12.4	11.8	24.2	6.8	10.2	13.1	3.5	12.3	13.9
May-21	20.0	33.4	25.6	10.4	15.6	14.4	5.1	7.2	22.1	28.0
Aug-21	-15.6	-7.1	5.0	-15.8	12.7	-10.3	21.1	-8.8	-5.2	-9.8
Change from corresponding quarter of previous year										
Aug-19	-8.5	-7.6	12.8	-3.5	2.1	20.3	20.6	12.5	-2.2	-1.9
Aug-20	-14.6	-25.2	7.8	10.2	21.9	-6.1	-1.8	-25.6	-8.1	-8.0
Aug-21	53.0	77.7	67.5	44.0	61.7	70.0	44.0	42.0	62.0	61.8

Job vacancies, change from Feb 2020 by state, original



Private sector

Job vacancies, private sector, states and territories, original

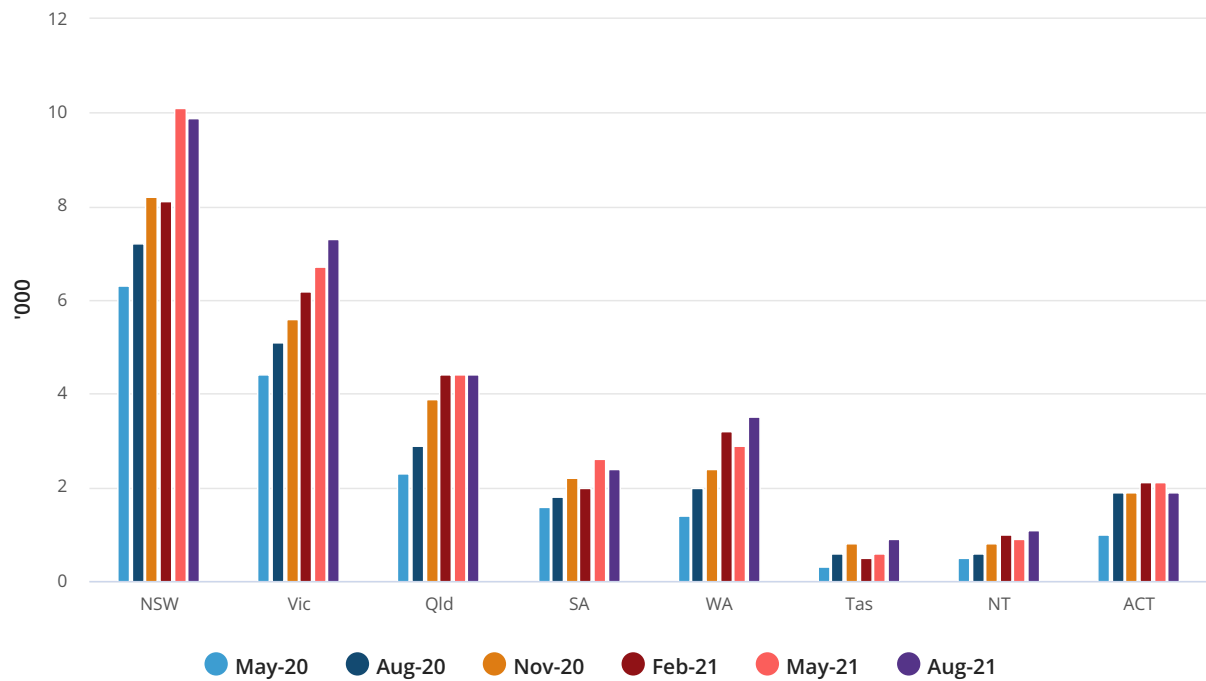


Change in job vacancies, private sector

	NSW	Vic	Qld	SA	WA	Tas	NT	ACT	Australia	Australia (Seasonally Adjusted)
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
Change from previous quarter										
May-20	-53.2	-54.8	-34.3	-48.1	-39.2	-46.6	-39.0	-48.8	-48.1	-45.3
Aug-20	64.5	67.4	71.1	104.7	95.7	82.0	186.8	46.2	74.3	65.6
Nov-20	35.4	30.0	12.1	25.2	16.1	53.2	-2.9	62.1	25.6	23.9
Feb-21	15.4	12.6	11.7	30.2	5.0	17.8	8.7	0.7	12.9	14.5
May-21	19.5	36.1	27.8	8.1	17.7	14.6	9.1	10.5	23.3	29.9
Aug-21	-17.0	-8.5	5.4	-17.1	12.1	-16.4	21.1	-8.4	-6.0	-10.9
Change from corresponding quarter of previous year										
Aug-19	-11.0	-7.1	11.3	-8.0	2.4	25.1	14.3	-2.9	-3.8	-3.6
Aug-20	-15.9	-27.3	11.0	11.7	23.3	-6.5	-1.7	-27.4	-8.2	-8.2
Aug-21	55.0	82.3	68.8	46.0	60.8	72.9	39.5	65.1	64.5	64.3

Public sector

Job vacancies, public sector, states and territories, original



Change in job vacancies, public sector

	NSW	Vic	Qld	SA	WA	Tas	NT	ACT	Australia	Australia (Seasonally Adjusted)
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
Change from previous quarter										
May-20	-20.2	-26.1	-34.3	-2.7	-37.1	-40.8	-41.5	-38.8	-26.5	-27.0
Aug-20	14.0	16.1	26.4	14.3	43.8	99.1	37.8	83.5	24.6	23.0
Nov-20	13.9	8.5	34.7	21.2	17.9	36.3	16.7	-1.2	15.7	15.2
Feb-21	-2.1	10.7	12.1	-11.5	33.4	-31.7	33.4	12.5	6.5	8.9
May-21	25.4	7.8	0.8	31.3	-7.6	11.9	-10.1	-1.9	10.4	10.0
Aug-21	-1.8	9.4	-1.5	-6.0	20.3	48.9	21.0	-10.2	3.6	2.3
Change from corresponding quarter of previous year										
Aug-19	20.9	-12.1	29.2	30.6	-1.5	0.7	73.6	67.2	14.7	14.8
Aug-20	-3.4	-2.6	-22.3	2.6	3.5	-3.9	-2.1	-22.1	-7.1	-6.9
Aug-21	37.3	41.7	50.0	32.4	74.9	55.3	69.3	-2.1	41.0	41.1

Industry

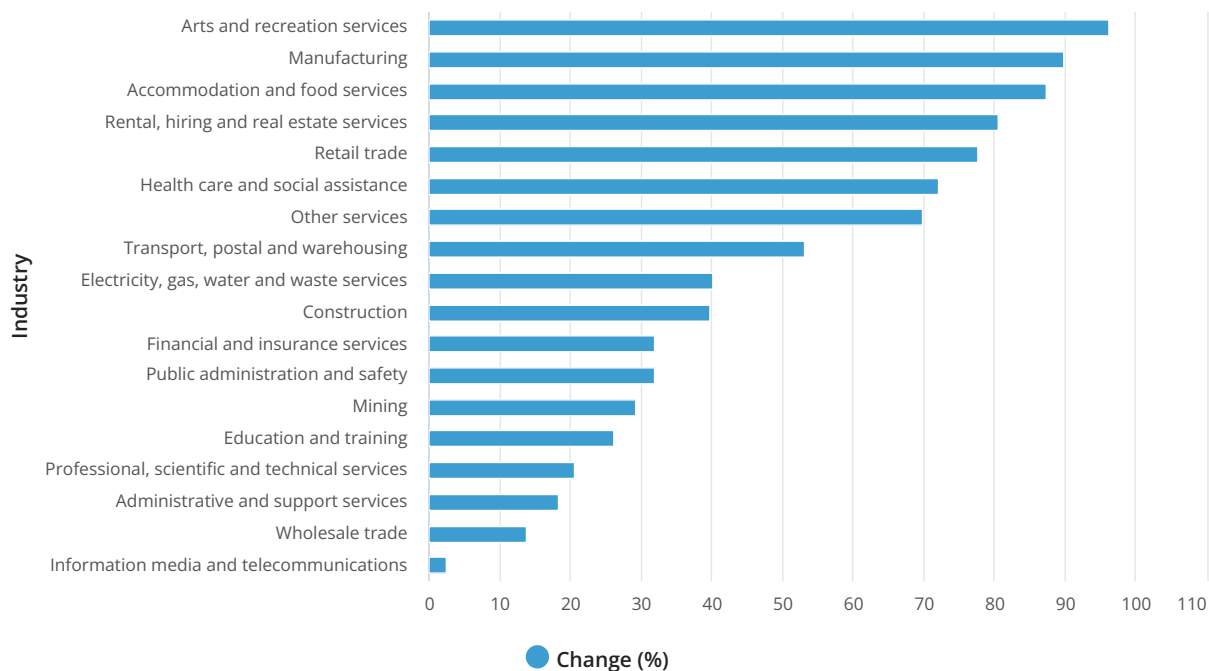
Job vacancies ('000), industry, original

	May-20	Aug-20	Nov-20	Feb-21	May-21	Aug-21
Mining	4.3	5.6	6.3	7.5	8.3	8.4
Manufacturing	7.0	13.5	15.3	16.6	20.7	23.2
Electricity, gas, water and waste services	1.6	1.9	2.2	2.7	3.0	3.0
Construction	8.3	15.9	17.9	26.7	29.9	23.2
Wholesale trade	6.5	9.9	13.4	14.0	17.8	14.4
Retail trade	11.4	18.5	25.7	24.9	34.3	33.6
Accommodation and food services	*5.0	*13.5	22.4	27.6	38.2	27.6
Transport, postal and warehousing	3.3	5.5	6.6	9.3	10.6	11.5
Information media and telecommunications	2.0	2.4	2.7	3.8	3.7	3.5
Financial and insurance services	7.8	12.3	12.8	14.7	17.9	15.8
Rental, hiring and real estate services	*1.0	*3.6	4.4	4.6	7.8	5.8
Professional, scientific and technical services	13.1	23.5	27.0	31.2	31.9	31.7
Administrative and support services	17.5	24.2	26.8	28.6	35.2	36.8
Public administration and safety	8.6	13.4	16.7	15.0	17.2	17.5
Education and training	3.6	6.4	6.7	8.5	10.5	9.8
Health care and social assistance	19.7	28.4	37.7	39.1	47.7	51.2
Arts and recreation services	**0.1	**1.2	4.0	2.6	5.4	3.9
Other services	*3.6	*8.3	10.6	13.6	15.4	16.0

* estimate has a relative standard error of 25% to 50% and should be used with caution

** estimate has a relative standard error greater than 50% and is considered too unreliable for general use

Job vacancies, change from Feb 2020 by industry, original



Downloads

Note

The trend estimates have been suspended from May 2020 for all job vacancies series due to the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on the labour market.

Time series spreadsheets

Table 1. Job vacancies, state and territories ('000)

[↓ Download XLS](#)

[341 KB]

Table 2. Job vacancies, private sector, state and territories ('000)

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[481 KB]

Table 3. Job vacancies, public sector, state and territories ('000)

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[325.5 KB]

Table 4. Job vacancies, industry, Australia ('000) - original

[↓ Download XLS](#)

[160 KB]

All time series

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[289.22 KB]

Previous catalogue number

This release previously used catalogue number 6354.0.

Methodology

[Job Vacancies, Australia methodology, August 2021](#)